

REMARKS

In the specification, [0028] has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

Claims 5 and 7 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 1 to 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §112 second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 3, 5 to 6 and 8 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bantlin et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,006,670.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 9 and 16 have been amended.

Reconsideration of the application based on the following is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 5 and 7 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 5 and 7 have been amended to correct the informalities. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph

Claims 1 to 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §112 second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended. In light of amended claim 1, claim 4 now has proper antecedent basis.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 5 to 6 and 8 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bantlin et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,006,670.

Bantlin et al. discloses creating a sheet pile inside the pile chamber, shifting the sheet pile from the pile chamber to a buffer zone, and opening and closing a screen to correspond with the sheet pile movements. (See col. 2, lines 39-49). The screen opens when the sheet pile obtains the desired height and the lifting platform is at the transfer level. The screen closes after the sheet pile is transported to the buffer zone. (See col. 2, lines 7-15). In Bantlin et al. movement of the sheet pile dictates opening and closing the screen.

Claim 1 now recites a method for operating a machine including a delivery device and a drive that processes printing substrates in sheet form, the method comprising:

conveying substrate sheets from an inside of a delivery device through at least one opening to an externally accessible region;

building a delivery pile in the externally accessible region using the substrate sheets coming from the inside of the delivery device through the opening;

controlling at least one closing device for opening or closing the opening via a control device operatively connected to a drive of the delivery device; and

closing the opening or maintaining the opening in a closed position when no substrate sheet is conveyed through the opening.

Support for the amendment is found at [0028], for example. Bantlin et al. does not disclose “building a delivery pile in the externally accessible region using the substrate sheets coming from the inside of the delivery device through the opening” as claimed.

In Bantlin et al., a lifting platform is located inside a pile chamber and a sheet pile is built inside the pile chamber. The lifting platform receives additional sheets released by the gripper systems, forming the sheet pile inside the pile chamber, until the designated height of the sheet pile is reached. Then the entire sheet pile is moved from the pile chamber through the opening to the buffer zone. Bantlin et al. also does not disclose “a delivery device including a drive for conveying substrate sheets and having at least one opening, the substrate sheets capable of being conveyed from an inside of the delivery device through the at least one opening to build a delivery pile in an externally accessible region, the delivery device including at least one closing device for opening or closing the opening” as recited in claims 9 and 16.

Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1, 9 and 16 and their dependent claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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